of character and antecedents was also carried cut by the authorities. The question of taking action against any specific officer, therefore, does not arise.

Opening of new colleges by Delhi University

1970. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi University had decided not to open any new colleges offering conventional courses in liberal arts, as it was in favour of establishing new colleges which fulfilled the growing need for job-oriented and professional courses, if so, what is the number of new colleges opened in 1987-88;

(b) what is the intake capacity of Delhi University colleges and what is the approximate figure of candidates who passed the qualifying examination from schools in Delhi in 1988 and were eligible for admission in various undergraduate courses in the current academic session; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government propose to open new colleges in Delhi, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) The University of Delhi has not taken any such decision.

(b) According to the information furnished by the University, the intake capacity of the Colleges/ institutions affiliated to the University, including the School of Corespondence Courses and the Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board, was 52,152 during the academic session, 1988-89, and the total number of candidates from Schools in Delhi eligible for admission to first degree courses was 51,524.

(c) Delhi Administration proposes to open a College for Applied Sciences for Women in Trans-Yamuna Area.

Threat from extremists for sabotage activities in Pakistan

1971. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recently reported threat given by Sikh extremists to carry out sabotage activities in Pakistan if the Pak Government fails to support their demand for creation of so-called Khalistan; and

(b) if so, what is Government's information about the Pak Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have no authoritative information in this respect.

Shortcomings of Anti-Dowry Laws

1972. SHRI M. VINCENT:
SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Anti-Dowry Laws as at present are not effective or otherwise it has too many shortcomings; and

(b) if so, whether Government are considering measures to make the Anti-Dowry Laws more effective and also uniform for all religions, caste and race in the entire country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Chemical warfare exercise by China

1973. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Times of India dated the 14th April, 1989 stating that 'Jane's Defence Weekly' has reported that the Chinese have held a chemical warfare exercise in Tibet in September last and that the Chinese do not preclude the possibility that nuclear or chemical weapons may be used by the Enemy obviously India, if so, what are the facts thereof; and

(b) what is the Government's response and follow up action thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government are aware of media reports that an exercise involving chemical warfare units was held in Tibet in 1988.

(b) The Government of India have been contributing positively to ongoing negotiations on a Convention on the Prohibition of development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, and on their destruction. This fact and Government's position is wellknown to the Chinese Government.

It is Government's policy to keep under constant review all developments having a bearing on India's security.

Desilting and deepeniag of Buckingham canal

1974. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T.R. BALU:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total length of Buckingham canal;

(b) whether there is any proposal to desilt and deepen the canal;

(c) if so, what will be the cost of the project and by when the project is likely to be completed; and

(d) what would be the estimated traffic after the canal becomes navigable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) 416 kms.

(b) to (d) The canal flows from Peddaganjam in Andhra Pradesh to Marakkanam backwaters in Tamil Nadu. A scheme to deepen the canal in the territory of Tamil Nadu sent by the State Government and costing Rs. 200·00 lakhs has been sanctioned as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to improve the stretch of this canal between Ennore lock (near Madras) to Chintamani Lock to a bed width of 10 metres and depth of 1·8 metres below low water level. The work is in progress. The Government of Tamil Nadu has also prepared additional two schemes. Similarly, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had also worked out four separate schemes for sanction as